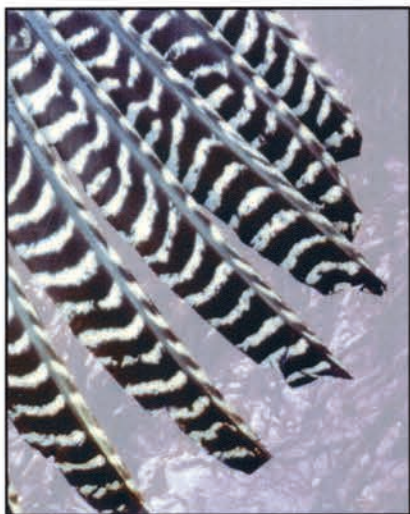


# AGING SPRING TURKEYS

## STEP 1: AGE

**ADULT or JUVENILE** - examine the last 1 or 2 wing feathers.  
Measure the spur. Measure the beard. Examine the tail fan.

**WING** - examine the last 1 or 2 wing feathers.



**ADULTS**  
have rounded  
feathers with  
white barring  
to tip.



**JUVENILES**  
have narrow  
pointed  
feathers with  
no white bars  
on the last 2  
inches.

**SPUR** - spurs grow as the turkey gets older. Generally the longer the spur, the older the bird.



Place ruler  
against leg  
at base of  
spur and  
record  
length of  
spur to  
nearest  $\frac{1}{8}$  of  
an inch.



**ADULT**  
spurs are  
generally  
longer  
than  $\frac{1}{2}$ ".



**JUVENILE**  
spurs are  
generally  
shorter than  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

**BEARD** - beards grow as the turkey gets older.

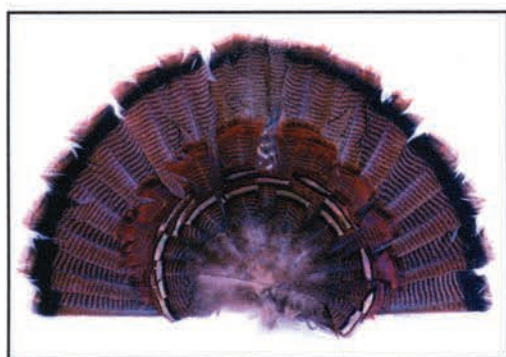


Measure the  
beard from  
the point of  
attachment  
to end of  
beard.



**ADULT**  
beards are  
generally  
longer than  
6".

**TAIL** - fan the tail and look at the central tail feathers.



**ADULT**  
tail fan is  
symmetrical.  
Central tail  
feathers are  
the same  
length as the  
rest of the tail  
feathers.



**JUVENILE**  
tail fan is not  
symmetrical.  
Central tail  
feathers are  
longer than the  
rest of the tail  
feathers.

This poster was funded by the Maine Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

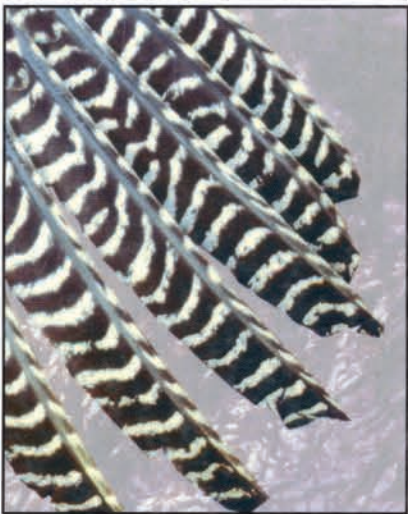




# AGING & SEXING FALL TURKEYS

STEP 1: AGE

ADULT or JUVENILE - examine the last 1 or 2 wing feathers.



**ADULTS**  
have rounded  
feathers with  
white barring  
on tip.



**JUVENILES**  
have narrow  
pointed  
feathers with  
no white bars  
on the last 2  
inches.

STEP 2: SEX

MALE or FEMALE - examine breast feathers and legs (*adult only*).

**A. FOR ADULTS:**

**MALES** have black-tipped breast feathers and leg spurs.



**FEMALES** have buff-tipped breast feathers and no leg spurs.



**B. FOR JUVENILES:** Do not look at the legs, they are similar for young males and females. Instead, examine the breast feathers. You will have to brush your hand against the breast feathers to look for new feathers coming in underneath the outer feathers. At the surface, juvenile male and female breast feathers often look the same.

**MALES** have some black-tipped feathers growing in.



**FEMALES** have buff-tipped breast feathers and no black-tipped feathers growing in.

